

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049783

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI AMMAN DAMASCUS
DOHA JIDDA KUWAIT MANAMA MUSCAT SANA TEL AVIV USUN NEW YORK
BAGHDAD FROM GENEVA DTD 04 MAR 1977 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1579

DEPT PASS OAU CLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EB, XF, XA

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: UNCTAD AND OAU/ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT

REF: A. STATE 46135, B. STATE 46132

OAU/ARAB SUMMIT PRECEDES UNCTAD MEETING OF MAJOR DONORS/
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LLDCS) SCHEDULED MARCH 14-22 AT WHICH
MANY AFRICAN AND ARAB DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS ARE LIKELY TO
ATTEND IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL DEVELOPED COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICIALS. WHILE THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IS ATTEMPTING TO
GUIDE THE DISCUSSIONS INTO AN "EXPERT LEVEL" TECHNICAL
REVIEW, THE MEETING HAS A GREAT POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL
CANONEERING. SINCE AFRICAN DELEGATES FROM LEAST DE-
VELOPED ARE KNOWN TO BE UNHAPPY WITH THE RESULTS OF
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NAIROBI RESOLUTIONS ON LEAST DEVELOPED AND WITH PRESENT
AGENDA FOR MARCH MEETING NOT INCLUDING DEBT PROBLEMS,
THEY MAY VERY WELL SEEK OPPORTUNITY OF LLDC
MEETING TO SEEK RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL GO BEYOND
WHAT WAS AGREED TO IN NAIROBI. IN ADDITION, OAU/ARAB
SUMMIT COMES AT VERY COMMENCEMENT OF COMMON FUND
NEGOTIATIONS DURING WHICH AFRICANS ARE EXPECTED TO

PRESS FOR CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THE GROUP OF 77 CF
CONCEPT TO BROADEN ITS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ASPECTS.
SINCE ARAB SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY FROM THOSE THAT ARE POEC
MEMBERS, IS KEY TO AFRICANS BEING ABLE TO PRESS THEIR
DEMANDS WITHIN THE UNCTAD CONTEXT, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE
THAT THE AFRICANS AND ARABS MAY FIND THE SUMMIT AN
OCCASION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL "BACKSCRATCHING"
POSITIONS DIRECTLY BEARING ON ISSUES COMING BEFORE
UNCTAD IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. US MISSION GENEVA
WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION
COPIES REPORTING ON THESE ASPECTS OF THE OAU/ARAB
SUMMIT. CATO UNQTE VANCE

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